

CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-17. Please add claims 18-36.

1. (Canceled) A method of managing a data system designed to ensure the integrity of data and a file system designed to manage files, comprising the steps of:

- (a) ensuring data from an external sources is received by the data system;
- (b) ensuring the data is copied from the data system to the file system; and
- (c) interpreting metadata to ensure data integrity is maintained during the copying of data from the data system to the file system wherein the metadata indicates a status of the data.

2. (Canceled) The method of claim 1 wherein the data system that is designed to ensure the integrity of the data is a relational database following ACID protocols.

3. (Canceled) The method of claim 2 wherein the metadata is stored in the relational database.

4. (Canceled) The method of claim 1 wherein the metadata comprises a state flag that indicates the status of the data.

5. (Canceled) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

- (d) directing a request to retrieve the data to:
the data system when the request is made prior to when the metadata
indicates that the step of copying the data to the file system has
been completed; or
the file system after the metadata indicates that the step of copying the
data to the file system has been completed.

6. (Canceled) The method of claim 5 further comprising the steps of:

- (e) ensuring the data is backed up based on the metadata; and
- (f) ensuring the data on the data system is deleted after the metadata indicates
that the step of copying the data to the file system has been completed.

7. (Canceled) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of using the metadata to
determine whether a request to retrieve the data should be directed to the file system.

8. (Canceled) The method of claim 1 wherein the metadata includes information
concerning location of a most recent version of the data and the step of using the
metadata.

9. (Canceled) The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of using the information
concerning location to determine where a request to retrieve the data should be directed.

10. (Canceled) The method of claim 3 wherein the integrity of the data is ensured during copy, transfer, delete, wipe, rename, and backup operations through use of the metadata.

11. (Canceled) The method of claim 3 wherein the integrity of the data is ensured during copy, transfer, delete, wipe, rename, and backup operations through use of the metadata by using minimum ACID protocols.

12. (Canceled) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of applying a filter to the data during the step copying the data from the data system to a file system.

13. (Canceled) The method of claim 12 wherein the filter is either an anti-virus filter, an access-control filter or a security filter, or some combination thereof.

14. (Canceled) A method for storing data, comprising the steps of:

- (a) initially receiving the data into a data system that is designed to ensure the integrity of the data;
- (b) creating metadata that can be used to ensure the integrity of the data and describe and track the state and location of the data; and
- (c) copying the data from the data system to a file system, designed to manage files, using protocols and the metadata that ensure the integrity of data during the copying.

15. (Canceled) A method of transferring data between a first system and a second system while ensuring the integrity of the data, comprising the steps of:

- (a) using metadata to determine when the data transfer is in progress;
- (b) using metadata to determine when the data transfer has been successfully completed; and
- (c) using the metadata to indicate when rollback procedures can be initiated from a backup.

16. (Canceled) The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of directing a request to access the data to the second system when the metadata indicates that a data transfer has been successfully completed.

17. (Canceled) The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of directing a request to access the data to the first system when the metadata does not indicate that a data transfer has been successfully completed.

18. (New) A method of transferring data that maintains data integrity, the method comprising:

setting metadata associated with the data to indicate initiation of a transfer of the data;

transferring the data from a data system to a file system;

determining whether the transfer of the data was successful; and

setting the metadata to indicate the successful transfer in response to the determination that the transfer of the data was successful.

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19. (New) The method of claim 18 further comprising transferring the data from the data system to the file system in response to the determination that the transfer of the data was unsuccessful.

20. (New) The method of claim 18 further comprising initiating an error handling process in response to the determination that the transfer of the data was unsuccessful.

21. (New) The method of claim 18 further comprising:

setting the metadata to indicate initiation of a deletion of the data;

deleting the data;

determining whether the deletion of the data was successful; and

setting the metadata to indicate the successful deletion in response to the determination that the deletion of the data was successful.

22. (New) The method of claim 21 further comprising deleting the data in response to the determination that the deletion of the data was unsuccessful.

23. (New) The method of claim 21 further comprising initiating an error handling process in response to the determination that the deletion of the data was unsuccessful.

24. (New) The method of claim 18 further comprising:

receiving the data into the data system from an external source; and

ensuring the integrity of the data in the data system.

25. (New) The method of claim 18 wherein the metadata comprises a state flag that indicate a state of the data.

26. (New) The method of claim 18 wherein the metadata comprises a state flag that indicate copies of the data.

27. (New) The method of claim 26 further comprising processing the metadata to determine where the copies of the data resides.

28. (New) The method of claim 18 further comprising using filters when transferring the data.

29. (New) A system for transferring data that maintains data integrity, the system comprising:

a file system;

a data system configured to transfer the data to the file system; and

a management system configured to set metadata associated with the data to

indicate initiation of a transfer of the data, determine whether the transfer of the data was successful, and set the metadata to indicate a successful transfer in response to a positive determination that the transfer of the data was successful.

30. (New) The system of claim 29 wherein the data system is configured to transfer the data to the file system in response to the determination that the transfer of the data was unsuccessful.

31. (New) The system of claim 29 wherein the data system is configured to delete the data and wherein the management system is configured to set the metadata to indicate initiation of a deletion of the data, determine whether the deletion of the data was successful, and set the metadata to indicate the successful deletion in response to a positive determination that the deletion of the data was successful.

32. (New) The system of claim 29 wherein the data system is configured to delete the data in response to the determination that the deletion of the data was unsuccessful.

33. (New) The system of claim 29 wherein the data system is configured to receive the data from an external source and ensure the integrity of the data.

34. (New) The system of claim 29 wherein the metadata comprises a state flag that indicate a state of the data.

35. (New) The system of claim 29 wherein the metadata comprises a state flag that indicate copies of the data.

36. (New) The system of claim 35 wherein the management system is configured to process the metadata to determine where the copies of the data resides.
